

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN HEALTH CARE AT VWCC

Physical Therapist Assistant

Associate in Applied Science
VWCC

Application Information for 2026

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Fralin Center for Science & Health Professions

at VWCC

Application Deadline: **February 15, 2026**

(Notes below)

Virginia Western Community College has an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Physical Therapist Assistant.

Pam Woody and Jasmine Terry process academic files for students applying to Dental Hygiene, Nursing, Practical Nursing, Radiography, Radiation Oncology, Medical Laboratory Technician, Physical Therapist Assistant, Surgical Technology & OTA (coming Fall 25, with approval pending). All academic files to one of these Health Professions programs will be processed in the Health Professions Advising and Applicants Office. Our office is located in the Fralin Center for Science and Health Professions (Fralin Center) which is on the Virginia Western Community College campus in Roanoke, Virginia. The room number is 339 and Pam is typically in the office from Monday through Friday from 8:00-3:30. (You can mail the application materials to: Attention Pam Woody, School of Health Professions, 3091 Colonial Avenue; Roanoke, VA 24015.) You can reach a team of advisors at healthprofessions@viriniawestern.edu.

Ms. Rhonda Perdue is the Program Advisor for PTA and can assist with course planning and career information.

The PTA program is a five-semester program, and we accept one time a year for VWCC. The classes will begin in the Fall of each year which is usually in the mid to later part of

August. We do not have a waiting list for this program. We go through an acceptance process each year to consider all applicants that have made application and completed the admission steps, including completion of an entrance test and an interview of some sort that includes a writing prompt. Details regarding the continued admission process will be relayed when it is time to complete the TEAS in spring prior to fall admission. We accept applications from June 2025 to the deadline of February 15, 2026.

This presentation will discuss the Admission Criteria and process, the prerequisites for the program, the PTA Curriculum, a typical schedule for the first semester, if accepted and estimated cost of the program.

For information regarding the application process and verification of complete academic file, prior to receiving the advising letter, you may contact Ms. Brown for assistance. For assistance with career choices and selections, you may contact team of advisors at healthprofessions@virgniawestern.edu.

Accreditation of Program

- **Accreditation**
- The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Virginia Western Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: <http://www.captionline.org>. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call 540-857-6728 or email jtucker@virginiawestern.edu

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Academically challenging
- Professionalism skills
- Skills application
- Classroom and clinical components
- [Prospective student packet](#)

The PTA program is academically challenging both from a knowledge perspective a skills prospective. In order to adequately prepare for the clinical setting and to take the national licensing exam, students are required to learn a large amount of information in a short time. Students should be self-motivated and take initiative to reach out for assistance when needed. As this program is a career-focused, even students who have been very successful in school prior to this program often find they have to adjust to new expectations and will need to adjust how they study and prepare for success in the program. This program has a strong science focus, so students must be able to learn how to master scientific knowledge.

Students who will be successful in this program need to be successful academically but also need to be able to demonstrate the ability to show professional behaviors in the classroom and clinical settings. Students need to be open to feedback related to these skills as expectations may be different than prior jobs or classroom expectations. Healthcare is an important and exciting field but relies on the ability of clinicians to always protect the patients and act in a mature and safe manner. The program faculty will work closely with all students on how to develop these professionalism skills prior to entering a clinical setting and working with patients.

In addition to professional and academic skills, students will be expected to learn and correctly demonstrate hands-on skills. Courses with hands-on skills begin the first semester

of the program and will prepare students to safely work with patients in clinical experiences. Hands-on skills take additional time to learn and practice, and students may not be accustomed to this study approach, so should take advantage of instructor time and open lab time to develop this new set of skills.

The program does consist of classroom and clinical components. In the 3rd, 4th, and 5th semesters, students will enter clinical settings and start to work alongside other PTs and PTAs to treat patients. Our clinical partners are located throughout the Roanoke valley and beyond. Students may be asked to drive up to 90 minutes from home due to the number of clinical sites available and the number of students that can be placed at each site. Clinical experiences are an exciting time and a chance for students to start to see what it is like to work as a PTA. Students will be asked to work in a variety of clinical settings to ensure they are ready to work in a variety of settings following graduation.

Prospective students are highly encouraged to review the Prospective Student Packet on the website as this packet contains valuable information about the expectations of the program.

PTA ADMISSION CRITERIA

- High School Diploma/GED
- **College-level Anatomy and Physiology I** (4 credits each with lab component) completed by end of **Spring prior to fall admission** at “C” level or above. (Completed within five years of beginning the program.)
- **College level SDV 101-two credits-Orientation to Health Professions**-completed end of **spring prior to fall admission**
- **College-level Anatomy and Physiology II** (4 credits with lab component)-completed by end of **summer prior to fall admission** “c” level or higher and completed within five years of beginning the program.
- HS/College cumulative GPA of 2.75 or above by end of **Fall 2025 for fall 2026 consideration**. (If using college GPA, must have at least 12 credit hours of college credit in 12-month time-frame to use GPA.)

In order to be considered for the fall PTA program, you must be either a HS Graduate or have obtained a GED.

College level Anatomy and Physiology I is also required as pre-requisites by the end of **spring prior to fall admission**. The Anatomy and Physiology I must be completed within the last five years of beginning the program. Courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or higher. Recent Biology (within the last three years is a pre-requisite for the BIO 141 course at VWCC with a passing grade of “C” or higher or NAS 2, completed with a grade of “S” within the last three years or completion of the challenge exam at 75% or higher within the last three years, to test into BIO 141 without completion of BIO 101/NAS 2. Check with Counselors at other colleges to determine the prerequisite for their Anatomy and Physiology courses.

SDV 101-two credits—Orientation to Health Professions, which is designated with a “P” on the course listing. Please note that if you have obtained a Bachelor’s Degree (in the United States or provided documentation from an organization that indicates the equivalent of such in your country), we can waive the two credits of SDV 101 and award the two credits of SDV based on completion of the Bachelor’s Degree (or Associate Degree). Must be completed by end of spring prior to fall admission

BIO 142-Anatomy and Physiology II is a required prerequisite that must be completed by end of summer prior to fall admission, within five years of beginning the program and with a final grade of “c” or higher

GPA is calculated at the end of the Fall semester (2025 for fall 2026 consideration), because the Admissions Committee will meet prior to the end of the Spring semester. Your cumulative GPA must be a 2.75 or higher by the end **of Fall prior to following fall admission** in order to be considered for the program. If you have attended college with a minimum of 12 credit hours of college credit that is the GPA we will go by to determine eligibility. College GPA must be based on at least 12 credit hours of college credit. We use the most recent educational experience with 12 credit hours of college credit to determine your GPA. However, if you have 63 credit hours, for example, at the same Institution, we will use the 63 credit cumulative GPA to determine your GPA. The GPA has to be a minimum of 12 credit hours, but we use the cumulative GPA of all credit hours completed at the same college.

The Admissions Committee reviews your entire academic history with emphasis being placed on your most recent educational experiences.

There are several situations: if you did not take HS seriously and have completed 22 credit hours of college credit with a 3.6 cumulative GPA----that is the GPA we will use to determine eligibility. However, if you have attended one college and completed 22 credit hours of college credit and have a 2.6—that would make you ineligible for consideration for the **Fall** program. However, you could take classes to increase your GPA and reapply to the program.

PTA PROGRAM ADMISSION PROCEDURES

- Apply to VWCC by completing VWCC application on-line at <http://apply.vccs.edu> and submit to VWCC. Indicate that you will be a “curricular” student and your program of study as Career Studies Certificate: Introduction to PTA on the VWCC Admission Application. This **must be your first step** in the application process.
- Apply to the PTA Program by completing the one-page PTA Program Application.
- BOTH steps must be completed in order to apply to the PTA program.

There are several steps that need to be completed in order to apply to the PTA Program. The first step will be to complete a VWCC application making sure that you indicate you are interested in the Career Studies Certificate: Introduction to PTA and that you will be a curricular student at VWCC. You may complete the VWCC application on-line. By indicating at VWCC that you are interested in the CSC: Introduction to PTA, this allows the Health Professions Advising and Applications Office to know of your interest in the program. In addition, if you do not have a completed VWCC application on file and indicate that you are CSC: Introduction to PTA and transcripts begin to arrive in the Records Office (by accident), they will be unable to “match” your transcripts with your file and you will remain incomplete. If you have trouble with your VWCC application, you may contact the Enrollment Center at 540-857-7231 for assistance.

The next step would be to apply to the PTA program itself. There is a separate application for the program and it is located on our website that contains, not only the PTA program application, but all forms necessary to apply to the program.

In addition, the completed PTA program can be brought to Fralin, Room 339, mailed to VWCC’ Attn. Pam Woody, 3091 Colonial Ave., Roanoke, VA 24015 or attached, via pdf to an email to either pwoody@viriniawestern.edu or healthprofessions@viriniawestern.edu.

PTA PROGRAM ADMISSION PROCEDURES-con't

- Submit official transcripts from HS/GED scores and **all** Colleges attempted to the School of Health Professions. It is **mandatory** that all information arrive in one envelope. (Exception: VCCS transcripts are not required, as we can access information on the VCCS system.)
- Mailing Address: VWCC, Attn: Pam Woody (or Health Professions), 3091 Colonial Ave. SW, Roanoke, VA 24015
- Advising letter scanned to email address at the college or the email associated with your Navigate platform --usually within four-six weeks of completed academic file. (Exception: high-volume time frames such as registration periods and prior to Health Profession deadlines and acceptance in May-June.)
- Meet with one of the Health Career Program Advisor to discuss concerns or questions after receipt of advising letter

You will also need to submit official transcripts from HS/copy of GED scores, and all colleges attempted (except the transcripts from VWCC or any other Community College in VA.) The transcripts do need to come to HPAAO and they need to arrive in one envelope. It's best to request HS and college transcripts to be mailed to you, do NOT open them, and when you have rec'd all of them, then mail them to: VWCC, School of Health Professions, ATTN: Pam Woody or School of Health Professions, 3091 Colonial Ave. SW, Roanoke, VA 24015 in one envelope. This will notify us that you have a completed academic file. Please be sure to send them to the Attn. of Pam Woody. If you mail your transcripts to the Admissions or Records Office, it delays your file from being processed. Once the Advisors in the HPAAO receives your academic file, then we can begin to "process your file" and do a verification process. It is YOUR responsibility to request and determine if your academic file is complete by the deadline. We need OFFICIAL transcripts from ALL colleges attended/attempted (except other Virginia Community Colleges—we can access that information from using the PeopleSoft system.) We also need official HS transcripts even if you have an advanced degree and we need HS if you completed a GED and attended at least thru 9th grade of HS. We need copy of your GED scores, if applicable. all items must arrive by the application deadline of **February 15**. Please note that if you are attending a non-Virginia Community College, in fall—you will need to submit updated transcripts upon completion of the semester (December of January) and forward those updated transcripts to the HPAAO to make your academic file complete by **February 15th**.

It is YOUR responsibility to request and determine if your file is complete by the deadline.

The advising letter will be scanned to your school email or the email associated with SIS/Navigate, upon completion of academic file and it will inform you of the prerequisites you have completed, the grade you received in those classes, your GPA at point of application, and any college courses previously completed or currently enrolled in that can be used in PTA curriculum. The advising letter typically takes 3-6 weeks from receipt of completed academic file to process. However, during deadline periods, registration periods, and acceptance periods for programs, there will be a delay as well as during the spring semester.

Deadline is **February 15** with no exceptions!

It is in your best interest to **apply early** so we can advise course selection for Spring semester and etc. Even if you lack some of the prerequisites, we update your record in January to reflect courses completed in Fall and your cumulative GPA at the end of Fall and which courses you are enrolled in for **Spring prior to fall admission**. If you apply from May to December and you are currently enrolled in a non-Virginia Community College, you will need to provide us updated transcripts reflecting your final grades in the Fall semester, by January 15th to update your academic file. This updated transcript must arrive by **February 15**. (Note: the application deadline is February 15)

For those students who are eligible to continue in the process, we notify them of the testing dates for the TEAS (which I will explain in the next slide). For those students who are ineligible to continue in the process you will receive a letter in February or March that will indicate why you are ineligible. The reasons may include missing items like updated HS or college transcripts, or missing pre-requisites, or cumulative GPA is below the 2.75.

While the prerequisites can be completed in summer, it may be in your best interest to complete some classes prior to summer semester.

PTA ADMISSION PROCEDURES-con't

- Register, pay, and complete TEAS VII. Information will be emailed to qualified VWCC applicants in late February/early March regarding testing dates for March. We are currently offering remote testing for the TEAS VII. We will keep you posted, if this process changes in the future. The email used to disseminate information regarding the TEAS, will be sent to your email in Navigate. Please be aware of the email account in Navigate and turn on your notifications.
- Minimum score on the Total Score on the TEAS has to be 60% or higher to continue in the application process (interview and writing prompt and etc.)

Qualified students will need to complete the TEAS (the Test of Essential Academic Skills) at their expense and the estimated cost is \$75.00 but this can vary. Information regarding the cost, times and dates of the TEAS will be emailed to those students who met minimum application criteria, in early March. We must update all records of those who have applied with courses completed in the Fall and update their record to reflect what they are currently enrolled in for Spring and plan to complete in summer. We notify everyone who applied and have a completed academic file by February 15 of their eligibility to continue in the application process. If you are ineligible, we also send you a letter and notify you of the reasons, which can be missing pre-requisites, low GPA, missing transcripts, and etc.

IN registering for the test, the information will be sent using the email associated with Navigate. This is important to be aware and turn on notifications in the Navigate platform.

Please note that the information regarding registration for the TEAS, will be sent via Navigate. Please be aware of your email account associated with your Navigate platform and please be sure to activate your notifications in Navigate to allow you to receive this communication.

The TEAS provides an objective measurement of your critical reading ability and evaluates your level of success with basic mathematics. Other parts of the TEAS evaluates your

science knowledge of Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology , General Science and Physical Science, your mathematical abilities, and your English Language Usage skills.

Please note that if you have applied and received the two-page advising letter and you have not been contacted regarding the TEAS by the third week of March, you need to immediately contact our office for direction. Currently, with remote testing, you need to be prepared to have a valid credit card to pay for the test just prior to the testing time. Again, we are planning to use a Navigate campaign to notify qualified applicants of the steps required to complete the TEAS. Please be sure and activate your notification on Navigate and be aware of your email associated with Navigate. This will assist you in receiving the notification for completion of the remote TEAS VII.

The minimum **total score** on the TEAS has to be 60% or higher to continue in the application process for PTA.

PTA ADMISSION PROCEDURES-con't

- Students that meet minimum initial admissions criteria, including a 2.75 GPA and a total TEAS of 60% or higher will advance to the final phase of the admissions process, the interview and writing sample component.
- During the interview, applicants will be evaluated on the communication skills and knowledge of the profession. There will also be a written prompt that must be completed using established guidelines.
- Information about how to schedule your interview will be communicated by the Program Director, after completion of the TEAS for the entire cohort.

It is very important for applicants to be checking the email address that they put on their PTA application during the admissions process as information related to the interview and essay components is typically sent by the program director by email. Students not responding to repeated emails to schedule an interview may miss interview deadlines and will not be able to proceed in the application process once final admissions decisions are made. Again, we will be using Navigate to inform qualified applicants of the steps required to complete the TEAS VII remotely. Be sure and activate your notifications on Navigate and be aware of the email account associated with your Navigate account.

PTA APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES-DURING APPLICATION PROCESS

- Notify Health Professions Advising and Applications Office of any changes in email addresses, name, and phone number after application. This must be done in writing in a note that includes Student ID (healthprofessions@viriniawestern.edu)
- Review the Essential Functions of the PTA Program. This listing can be obtained from the Essential link on the PTA website at VWCC.
- Contact The Virginia Board of Physical Therapy (<https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/PhysicalTherapy/default.htm>) for information if you have a felony or misdemeanor conviction—you may be ineligible to take the licensing exam or to receive a license to practice as a PTA in Virginia.

Anytime you move or change your name during the application process, you need to inform the Health Professions Advising and Applications Office (healthprofessions@viriniawestern.edu). We use a separate database than the college and if you inform Admissions, we will not know of the changes and we need to maintain contact with you in regards to the next step in the application process. We will need changes in writing with an identification number such as your student id and if your name changes, we will also need a copy of your marriage license or your driver's license that reflects the name change.

You need to review the Essential Functions and need to make sure that you are able to perform these functions or if we can make reasonable accommodations for the disability. Please refer to Essential Functions link on the PTA website.

If you have been convicted of a Felony or misdemeanor, you need to contact the Virginia Board of Physical Therapy as this may prevent you from sitting for your Boards or receiving a license to work as a PTA in Virginia. You MUST be licensed to work as a PTA in all 50 states. In addition, we require a clear criminal background check and a negative drug screening for our clinical sites. You must have a clear criminal background and negative drug screening in order to participate in clinical facilities. If you are unable to achieve this, you may not be allowed to go to clinical and therefore will not be able to achieve the

clinical objectives of the program.

PTA STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES-(if accepted)

- If you are accepted into the program, you must:
 - Complete several medical requirements prior to starting the program
 - Pass a background check prior to starting the program
 - Prior to starting the first clinical rotation in the 3rd semester, students will complete an additional background check and a drug screen.
 - Complete the required pre-requisite courses no later than the spring (BIO 141 & SDV 101) and BIO 142 by end of summer semester prior to starting the program (all with grades of "c" or better and the sciences within the five years of beginning the program
 - Attend one day PTA orientation.
 - Be prepared to pay out-of-pocket for some expenses that is required and not covered by Financial Assistance.

Once admitted into the program, you must complete additional requirements before being cleared to start your PTA classes.

Prior to starting the first day of classes, you must complete several medical requirements including a physical exam and vaccinations. You must also pass a background check prior to starting in the program. You will be required to have a second clear background check and a clear drug screen prior to starting your first clinical rotation in the 3rd semester. All medical requirements are completed at your own expense, students should review the estimated costs on the website.

Students need to complete SDV 101 and BIO 141 with a "C" or better by the end of spring prior to fall admission and completion of the BIO 142 by end of fall prior to fall start of the actual PTA program. All grades need to be "c" or higher.

Finally, all accepted students will be required to attend a one-day mandatory orientation in June prior to the start of the fall semester.

PTA STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES-(if accepted

- Once you enter the program, you must:
 - Be prepared to attend all classes and lab
 - Provide your own transportation to and from class and clinical sites.
 - Be available to complete full-time clinical rotations which may also include weekend, evening, and holiday hours.
 - Purchase textbooks, lab supplies, and clothing appropriate for clinical rotations.
- To graduate from the program, you must:
 - Meet all college requirements for graduation
 - Pass all courses in the program plan of study with a "C" or better (including general education courses) AND a 77% average on all written tests in PTA courses.
 - Pass all skill checks and lab practicals in the PTA courses.
 - Complete all community service and professional service hours prior to the final clinical rotation
 - Successfully pass the final clinical rotation, which includes meeting performance and professionalism expectations.

Once students start in the program, they are expected to attend all classes as the program has strict attendance policy and inability to consistently attend class may lead to grade deductions or dismissal from the program. Students should also be prepared to provide their own reliable transportation to classes and to clinical sites.

Students should be prepared to attend their clinical rotations with a full-time Monday-Friday schedule during those semesters. Students may also be working weekends or holidays during their clinical rotations.

The program heavily utilizes required textbooks and other resources, and students will be required to purchase a PT tool kit in the first semester.

Students must meet the requirements seen on the slide to successfully progress through, and graduate from the PTA program.

CREDENTIALS FOR PRACTICE AS A PTA

- To be eligible for a PTA license in Virginia, you need to:
 - Be a graduate of an accredited program
 - Be 18 years of age or older
 - Be a graduate of a two-year college-level education program for physical therapist assistants acceptable to the Board
 - Satisfactorily passed an examination approved by the Board (the NPTE)
 - Meet the requirements of a background check and fingerprint screening

To work as a PTA in all 50 states, you must be licensed in the state in which you are working. The requirements for working in Virginia as a PTA are seen on this slide. If you are interested in working in another state as a PTA, it is **your** responsibility to reach out to the board of that state to find out the requirements for practice as a PTA. Links to the boards of all states can be found on the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy website.

PRE-PREREQUISITE COURSES PTA

EDE 10 or EDE 11. If you are a recent High School graduate (within the last five years) here are the guidelines for placement into ENG 111.

- HS GPA < 2.0= EDE 10
- HS GPA 2.0-2.99= EDE 11 + ENG 111
- HS GPA = 3.0+ = ENG 111

If you have graduated over six years from High School, then Informed Direct Placement will place you in the recommended ENG or EDE courses.

Please check with Advising Specialist at other colleges to determine the testing required and classes that can be completed to fulfill any deficiencies. Upon completion of the examination, we can determine course sequence.

Depending on your academic history it may be necessary for you to take certain English preparatory courses. Joint Venture applicants, please work closely with the Counseling Office, at your college, to determine the appropriate English course that is needed, if not previously completed. VWCC applicants will need to work with New Student Advisor in assessing the need for discussion regarding your course sequencing. Sometimes it is necessary to complete the English writing sequence of a non-credit English to assist you with some skills and then move to other courses offered at the college.

Readiness for ENG 111/EDE 11 is required before BIO 101, PSY 230 and other courses requiring reading. For instance, if you need to register for EDE 11 and ENG 111 and plan to complete BIO 101, you will need to either be enrolled in the EDE 11 and ENG 111 as well as BIO 101 or complete the sequence of EDE 11 and ENG 111 prior to enrolling.

PREREQUISITE COURSES--PTA

- Successful self direct enrollment into college math (or waiver based on High School grades and GPA within the last five years) is required prior to registering for BIO 101 or NAS 2 at VWCC or successful completion of MDE10 within the last five years.

- BIO 101-(4 credits)-Biology-(must have lab component) or NAS 2.

Must be eligible for EDE 11/ENG 111 and pass (or bypass) MTH 10. This is a prerequisite for the college level BIO 141 at VWCC.

Successful completion of MDE 10 or direct enrollment into college level courses are required before registering Biology 101 or NAS 2.

Prerequisite courses must have a lab component in order to be used to fulfill requirement. The Biology 101-"C" or higher or NAS 2 with "s" is a prerequisite for the BIO 141 at VWCC. One or both of these classes will be offered the first five weeks of summer, so the BIO 141 can be completed the second five weeks of summer.

Note: other colleges may not require the prerequisite of a recent Biology or NAS within the last three years and successful completion of either MDE 10 or placement into a college-level math course for the BIO 141.

College level prerequisites-con't

- **BIO 141-4** credits (Anatomy and Physiology I)-Prerequisite: Recent (within last three years) Bio 101 "C" or higher or NAS 2 (grade of "S") required at VWCC. Generally offered in Fall and Spring and Summer at VWCC. NOTE: BIO 141 should be completed by end of spring prior to fall admission. Course must have lab component.
- Must be completed with grade of "C" or higher. Must be completed by end of **spring prior to fall admission**. (If previously completed, must be within the last five years of beginning the program.)

Also, we require the college level Anatomy and Physiology I (BIO 141) to be completed with a grade of "C" or higher by the end of **Spring prior to fall admission**. The pre-requisite for BIO 141 at VWCC is recent BIO 101 (within three years with final grade of "C" or higher or completion of NAS 2 with grade of "S" and completed within three years or successful challenge of the exam to enter BIO 141 at 75% or higher within the last three years. The reason is for the first part of BIO 141, previous knowledge learned in BIO 101 is required in order to be successful in 141. In addition, students must be ready for ENG 111 as well or be co-enrolled in EDE 11/111.

If you are attending another college, you will need to check with a counselor regarding the pre-requisites for college level A&P.

Also, there is a five-year limit in regard to completing the college level A&P. They must be completed within five years of beginning of the program. If it has been longer than five years, you will need to repeat the BIO 141 with a grade of "C" or higher by the **Spring prior to fall admission**.

College level prerequisites-con't

- **SDV 101-two credits**—Orientation to Health Professions—Must be completed by end of **Spring prior to fall admission**

SDV 101-two credits—Orientation to Health Professions, which is designated with a “P” on the course listing. Please note that if you have obtained a Bachelor’s Degree (in the United States or provided documentation from an organization that indicates the equivalent of such in your country), we can waive the two credits of SDV 101 and award the two credits of SDV based on completion of the Bachelor’s Degree (or Associate Degree).

College level prerequisites-con't

- **BIO 142-4 credits** (Anatomy and Physiology II)-Prerequisite: Successful completion of BIO 141 with grade of "c" or higher. Generally offered in Fall and Spring and Summer at VWCC. NOTE: BIO 142 should be completed by end of **summer** prior to fall admission. Course must have lab component.
- Must be completed with grade of "C" or higher. Must be completed by end of **summer prior to fall admission**. (If previously completed, must be within the last five years of beginning the program.)

Also, we require the college level Anatomy and Physiology II (BIO 142) to be completed with a grade of "C" or higher by the end of **summer prior to fall admission**. The prerequisite for BIO 142 at VWCC is BIO 141 with final grade of "c" or higher

Also, there is a five-year limit in regard to completing the college level A&P. They must be completed within five years of beginning of the program. If it has been longer than five years, you will need to repeat the BIO 141 with a grade of "C" or higher by the **Summer prior to fall admission**.

PREREQUISITE COURSES-con't-

- Cumulative GPA must also be above a 2.75 by end of **Fall prior to February 15 deadline** -(if using college GPA, must be based on at least 12 credit hours of college credit within 12 month timeframe).
- GPAs will not be rounded.

GPA is based on the last place attended. If you have 12 credit hours by end of Fall, that is the GPA we will use. If you have less than 12 credit hours, we will proceed in reverse chronological order until we reach an Institution with 12 credit hours of college credit at that Institution. Also, remember that developmental courses, (courses where a grade of “P” or “S” are assigned for grades) will not count towards the 12 credit hours of college credit at the Institution.

CAREER SUPPORT CLASS INFORMATION

- Career support classes may be completed prior to entering the PTA Program. Classes may be completed at any Community College or another college provided courses are similar and are a viable substitute based on course content and credit hour and completed at a regionally accredited college.
- Career support classes are classes without the "PTH" prefix in the curriculum listing.
- Completion of support classes does not guarantee a position in the program.
- If you are considering completing these courses prior to entering the program, please consult with financial aid to determine if the decrease in credits each semester once entering the program will impact your financial aid.

In addition to the prerequisite courses there are career support classes that can be completed prior to entering the PTA program. Career support courses are classes within the PTA curriculum that does not have the PTH pre-fix. For instance,, ENG 111, HLT 141, BIO 142, PHI 220-Ethics, and PSY 230-Developmental Psychology, --these will be listed on a following slide.

You are encouraged to complete some of the support classes prior to entering the program, but it is not mandatory that you do so. Most of the applicants have completed some, if not all, of the support classes prior to entering. However, keep in mind that completion of the support classes does not guarantee you Admission into the program. If you are accepted into the PTA program without completing the support classes, you will take the curriculum as outlined in a following slide.

Note: At VWCC, applicants for the PTA program are enrolled in the CSC: Introduction to PTA and some of the support classes are not included in the CSC for Financial Aid purposes. In the CSC there is a choice of either PSY 230 **or** PHI 220. If you wish to complete those courses prior to entry, you will need to plan to pay for those courses out of pocket. (If accepted into the PTA program, at that time, FA will cover those courses. The plan change from CSC to AAS PTA typically occurs in late May or early June for fall programs.

CURRICULUM-PTA

Fall Semester

ENG 111-3 cr

HLT 141-1 cr

PHI 220-3cr

PTH 105-3 cr

PTH 151-4 cr

Spring

PTH 110-1

PTH 115-5 cr

PTH 121-5 cr

PSY 230-3 cr

Summer

PTH 122-5

PTH 131-2

Fall-2nd Year

PTH 210-2 cr

PTH 226-4 cr

PTH 227-3 cr

PTH 251-3 cr

Spring

PTH 225-4 cr

PTH 245-2 cr

PTH 252-4 cr

PTH 255-2

Here is the link to the actual curriculum for the program:

https://catalog.viriniawestern.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=23&poid=3171&returnto=2446. Courses must be taken in the order posted on the website and at this time, the program is only offered in a full-time format.

SUPPORT CLASSES

Support classes generally offered every semester:

- ENG 111-3 credits-English-Prerequisite satisfactory VPT results. Joint Venture applicants check with Counseling Office for details regarding the need for placement prior to ENG 111.
- Medical Terminology HLT 141 is one credit
- PSY 230-3 credits-Developmental Psychology
- PHI 220-Ethics-3 credits

ENG 111- sometimes the course is listed as ENG 101/102 at other institutions, and it will transfer in as 111 and 112, provided the course covered Composition. ENG 111 at VWCC is offered on campus and Distance Learning.

HLT 141-Medical Terminology-one credit (HLT 143-three credits can sub for the HLT 141-one credit, provided final grade is “c” or higher)

PSY 230-offered on-campus and Distance Learning. (PSY 200 cannot be substituted for this course. The PSY 230 course covers human development from birth to death. If you completed the PSY 231/232 series with grade of “C” or higher, this course sequence can be substituted for PSY 230. However, you do need to complete both courses as the courses combined cover the material from birth to death.

PHI 220-Ethics



TYPICAL SCHEDULE FOR FIRST SEMESTER

- The first semester of the program includes time in both lecture and lab. Students may also have additional support classes they are completing if they have not completed them prior to entering the program.
- Students will be in PTA lectures for 3 hours per week and in lab for 8 hours per week.
- Courses are offered only during the day and students should expect to be on campus for PTA courses 3-4 days per week. This does not include additional time spent outside of class for studying and practicing hands-on skills.
- Students might be on campus for full days or partial days.
- As students progress through the program, they should expect to be on campus 4-5 days/week for a good portion of the day.
- The clinical rotations in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th semesters are full-time 40-hour weeks and could include weekend and holiday hours.

Please note that the above is just a typical schedule and the times may change.

Clinical Education

- Clinical education experiences are a great time to get out into the clinic and start treating patients alongside other PTs and PTAs. Clinicals are a great opportunity to take what is being learned in the classroom and transition it to the clinic.
- Students will be required to complete 3 full-time clinical rotations:
 - Last 3 weeks of third semester, clinical rotation in an outpatient setting (120 hours)
 - Last 6 weeks of fourth semester, clinical rotation in an outpatient or inpatient setting (240 hours)
 - Last 7.5 weeks of fifth semester, clinical rotation in an outpatient or inpatient setting (whichever setting was not the placement for the prior clinical rotation) (300 hours)
- Clinical experiences occur typically during “day shift” hours and students should expect to work 40-hour weeks during the experiences.
- Prior to progressing to clinicals, students must pass all prior courses with a “C” or better and be deemed by the program faculty as safe to progress to clinicals. Students must also submit all required medical and paperwork requirements.

The clinical education portions of the PTA program are an exciting time when students are able to take what they are learning in the classroom and apply it in clinical settings while working with patients, other PTAs and PTs, and various members of the healthcare team. Included in the program are 3, 6, and 8 week, full-time clinical experiences.

Clinical education experiences may take place at a variety of clinical sites throughout Central and Southwest Virginia. Therefore, it is required for students to have access to a reliable source of transportation during their clinical education experiences. Students may be asked to drive up to 90 minutes away from their home in order to reach their assigned clinical education site.

During the program, students will complete 3 full-time clinical experiences. Students should expect to work full-time (approximately 40 hours/week) during these experiences which are three, six, and eight weeks. Shifts during clinical rotation may vary and may include 8-10 hour days, 4-5 days/week, and regular weekend hours. Physical therapy departments are only staffed during “day shift”, so students should expect to work during typical daytime work hours during these clinical rotations. Student schedules will vary based on their clinical placement and no schedule can be guaranteed.

PROCESS OF APPLICATION

- **Apply by February 15 prior to following fall admission**—all items must be at VWCC before or on that date
 - VWCC application-with PTA indicated as program of study and curricular
 - GED scores/HS official transcripts
 - Official College Transcripts-except VCCS transcripts
 - ABOVE MUST ARRIVE in **ONE ENVELOPE**

MAIL ALL ITEMS (tracking encouraged)

TO: School of Health Professions, VWCC

Attention: PAM WOODY or drop off in Fralin, Room 339 (best method but not required)

PROCESS/TIME-LINE OF APPLICATION

- **Once academic file is complete**—should receive an ADVISING letter from Health Professions Advising and Applications Office team-member
- Schedule to take TEAS (at student's expense) in Spring
- Schedule interview with PTA faculty after we obtain results of TEAS
- Wait for acceptance/alternate/denial status in program-usually in mid to late May
- If accepted, return acceptance form, if placed on alternate list, return alternate acceptance form.

In January, we update everyone's record that has applied. Since May 2025-December 10, 2025 We update Fall grades and GPA and indicate which courses applicant enrolled in for Spring. Again, if you are enrolled in a non-VCCS college in fall, you are required to submit an updated official transcript showing completion of fall grades by February 15th.

After that process, applicants will be emailed a letter informing them either the next step in the application process which would be to take the TEAS or applicants will be emailed a letter informing that they will not be considered for the program because either items arrived after the deadline, the cumulative GPA was below 2.75 or there are too many missing prerequisites to complete by the deadline.

TEAS will not be scheduled at VWCC until we have **all** documentation, including updated transcripts from Fall semester (except VCCS transcripts)

TEAS is administered remotely, if possible, on a few testing dates established in March/April.

PROCESS OF APPLICATION-CON'T

- Students who are accepted into the program will be required to attend a **mandatory** full-day orientation on a Friday in June prior to fall admission.
- At orientation, students will learn more about the program including:
 - Program expectations
 - Program policies
 - Medical information and forms
 - Information about registering for fall classes
 - Success strategies for the program

All applicants will receive a letter of either acceptance, placed on alternate list or not quite this year, provided they completed the application process, which the last step would be the interview and essay.

ESTIMATED COST OF PTA PROGRAM

- Tuition based on 69 semester credit hours at \$179.99 per credit hour for in-state students (\$12,419.31 which includes the six credits of Anatomy and Physiology and SDV that are considered prerequisite courses.) (You are encouraged to check the VWCC website for updated tuition rates.)
- Student Kit- \$250.00
- Books (PTA books only)-\$~1,350.00
- Clothing for clinical--\$250.00
- Physical/CPR/Hepatitis B/Malpractice/Background check-\$~690.00
- Board/Licensure fees/dues-\$~1,000.00

Please also refer to the link “Estimated Cost” on the PTA program website

Prospective Student Information

- Please read the VWCC Physical Therapist Assistant Program Prospective Student Information for additional details that you will need to make an informed decision regarding if the PTA program at VWCC is for you.
- <https://www.virginiawestern.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/PTAProspectiveStudentPacket.pdf>

Application Statistics

- For 2025 we had 75 apply for the program with a little over 24 eligible applicants for the 24 class positions. (We do not know this number at this time) was unsuccessful with the TEAS VII and were not considered for a class position
- For 2024 we had 80 apply for the program with 38 eligible applicants for the 24 class positions. Five students were unsuccessful with the TEAS VII and were not considered for a class position

PTA Practice Settings

- Hospitals (acute care)
 - Rehab hospitals
 - Skilled Nursing Facilities
 - Outpatient Clinics
 - Schools
 - Wellness/Prevention/Sports/
- Home Health
 - Hospice
 - Workplace/occupational settings
 - Local, State, Federal Government
 - Research

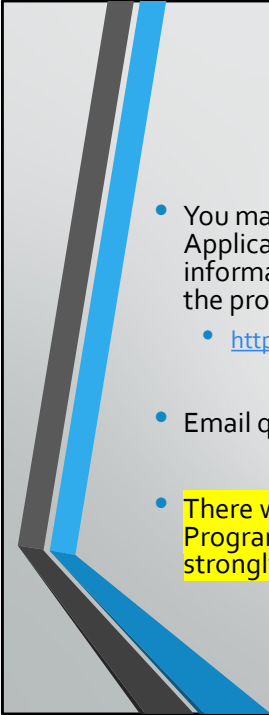
Career Exploration

- Please use the following website to explore the career to determine if this is journey for you at this time:
- <https://www.apta.org/PTACareers/>
- <https://www.apta.org/PTAEducation/>
- <https://www.apta.org/PTA/>
- <https://www.apta.org/>

REQUIREMENTS FOR REAPPLICATION

- Submit application for following year-increase academics/professional knowledge/ TEAS score to be more competitive
- Repeat application process
- Submit updated transcripts after each semester (non-VCCS students) and send to attention of Pam Woody at the VWCC address
- Repeat TEAS interview process and essay if required.

If you apply to the Fall program and if you are not accepted, you are encouraged to reapply to following year program. You would need to submit a **new PTA application**, not your transcripts that you have previously submitted—but any that needed to be updated such as final HS transcript or final college transcript of courses completed in Spring, Summer or Fall prior to spring deadline. You would need to submit a **new PTA Program application**, and you could increase the strength of your academics, and knowledge of the profession if you thought perhaps this was an area that you were lacking in during the previous application process. You would need to complete the application process which would involve retaking the TEAS. There are several options available if you would like to increase your reading scores. You could take a critical reading course or if you felt that you were reading too slowly, you could take a speed-reading course. If qualified, you would need to go through the interview process.

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- You may access the following website for Application materials including the Application, Forms of Recommendation, Transcript Request Form and other information regarding the application process including Questions and Answers about the program:
 - <https://www.virginiawestern.edu/academics/health-professions/physical-therapist-assistant/>
 - Email questions/concerns/feedback to healthprofessions@virginiawestern.edu
 - There will also be “Best Practices” for application to Restricted Health Professions Programs, the first Friday of every month (except July) at 1:00 in HP 210. Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend a session prior to January.